



Deuce Four



Volume 2 Issue 2 1st Battalion 24th Infantry Fort Wainwright, Alaska February 2009

Notes From the Commander

Dear Friends and Family of the Legion:

This past month has been one of change and progress for both the Legion and the people of Iraq. While losing some great officers who returned home to Alaska, we also gained some fine new Soldiers to Deuce Four and look to welcome several new Lieutenants in the near future.

The highlight for the past month was the first established provincial elections for the Iraqi people in the Diyala Province. Through meticulous planning and careful execution with our Iraqi Security Force partners, this event happened with very little friction. The Battalion made its mark and is now part of another historical milestone in the political progress of Iraq. Our work, however, continues as we capitalize on the maintenance and sustainment of the existing progress.

This past month we were very fortunate to host the Multi-National Force - Iraq Commander, GEN Raymond Odierno. We took him on a patrol of the market area in Khalis and he was witness to the excellent work our Soldiers have been doing.

We look forward to this upcoming month and what we can achieve with our ever-developing partnership with the Iraqi Army and Iraqi Police. Also, with the beginning of another month, we are that much closer to completing the hard work we began back in September when we deployed from Fort Wainwright. Thank you for all of your support.

Deuce Four – The Arctic Legion

STRENGTH AND HONOR!

Legion 6

LTC Brian Reed

CDR, Deuce Four

A Thought from the Chaplain

As we enter February our Environmental leave program is already in full swing. It is great to be able to see loved ones again. Of course our reunions have great joy attached to them, but are not without challenges as well. We all have our own ideas about what is important in a reunion. We all have our expectations and fantasies. The question is, are you on the same page as your spouse?

When your husband comes home from Iraq are you both expecting the same things? I give a briefing to the guys over here before they head home. I feel it is right that I address this issue with you folks as well. We all have fantasies of a reunion, usually men and women have different expectations and different fantasies. I have told the Soldiers that most wives who are home with the kids have the fantasy of their husband taking care of the kids while they head off alone for shopping or out for a day spa...no kids in tow, on their own for the first time in ages. This is generally not what your Soldiers have in mind for their homecoming fantasy. Of course I am generalizing and over simplifying the situation but the basic idea is sound. We all want what we want and must figure out a middle ground somewhere.

So, how do you both have a good couple of weeks together? How do you figure out what to do? How do you get to this middle ground? I am going to look like Chaplain obvious here, but my best advice is to

talk about it. The reality is that neither you nor your Soldier knows what the other expects from leave unless you talk about what you want to do.

If you want to go somewhere, let your spouse know. If you just want to hang around the house then you should probably let your spouse know that as well. The reason to talk about it ahead of time is to avoid problems when you get together. If you both know what to expect then there is less chance of arguing about it. There will also be more opportunity to enjoy yourselves and lower the chance of not meeting each others' undeclared expectations. If you do not have a plan then you will lose a couple of days of leave discussing (perhaps even arguing) while you try to figure out what to do. By this time there will be hurt feelings and fewer days left to enjoy yourselves.

From where I sit, it is better to hammer out the expectations before you meet up with each other. It will mean fewer problems and more time doing what you both want. It will also give you a better chance of not having your feelings hurt and resenting the time together. Best course of action, figure out what you would like to do, let your spouse know and work out the differences before you get together so that you can end up enjoying your time reunited.

Take Care and God Bless,
Brian Palmer
Legion Chaplain



B CO Soldiers and Chaplain playing soccer with Iraqis

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

Greetings Family and Friends of Hammer Company,

Hammer Company is already closing in on the half way mark of this deployment. In 5 short months the company has gone from a position where we actively patrolled our sector, to one where the Iraqi security forces completely have taken the lead. We continue to teach, mentor and patrol with the Iraqi army and police, always with them in charge. This is a very large and meaningful step in Iraq becoming self-sufficient. This success is in large part to the tireless effort by your loved ones.

The culmination of our hard work for January ended with a safe and successful election. All Iraqi's in our area of operation were able to vote. A free election process was foreign to most Iraqis their entire life, and they now value their political process dearly. Through the guidance of our Soldiers, the Iraqi Police and Army developed and implemented a plan to provide security and safety to all who voted. Their vigilance and dedication along with our expertise allowed for elections free of terrorist threat.



One of the best missions the company is engaged in is providing humanitarian aid to those in need. Seeing the gratitude of a family for just sugar, rice, and flour makes all of us appreciate how much we have. These aid drops are often the difference between providing enough food so a family can allow their children to go to school instead of working. Your Soldier's dedication to the Company and

Battalion's mission truly is making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people. All of us can see the



difference the last few months have made. Each day the Iraqi people are taking control of political, social, and military issues that they once relied on us for.

On a final note, for those of you still braving the cold in Alaska, spring will be right around the corner. This is still the one time of year where weather is better in Iraq than in Alaska. Patrols for us are easy with the weather being in the 60s and 70s. In a few short months we will be braving the 100 plus degree weather and wishing for some of that Alaska cold!



CPT Matthew D. Mackey
HHC, 1-24 IN
Commander

HHC Points of Contact

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Company First Sergeant:	1SG Brooks	edwin.terrell.brooks@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Sarah Mackey	strwbryp@yahoo.com

Alpha Company ATTACK!



Dear Family and Friends of Attack Company,

January of 2009, was another eventful and critical month in both Attack Company’s and Iraq’s history. This month saw the completion of payments to and the transfer of 1,632 Sons of Iraq in our AO from Coalition Forces Control to Government of Iraq control. The process was slow and painful, and 2nd Platoon bore the brunt of the work as they had the vast majority of our SoIZ in their sector. Our FSO, 1LT Schwille, was also instrumental in overseeing the process. Each SoIZ who was being transferred had to be recorded on a roster and enrolled in our biometrics database prior to the transfer. Likewise, copies of all of our paperwork had to be translated into Arabic and handed over to the Iraqi Army so that they had accurate rosters when they took control of the program. It took us over two weeks to complete the process.

SoIZ transfer, however, was not the only thing occupying Attack Company’s time. We were also occupied with trying to decipher the complex problems associated with the various essential services (water, electricity, sewage, etc.) in our AO. We made great strides in January in these areas, successfully partnering local leaders like Muqtars with the appropriate service managers and civil servants to get improvements done. For example, in one area called Kobat, we were able to improve their electricity supply from about 30 minutes a day to over 12 hours a day in

just a couple of weeks.

The biggest single event that occurred in January, though, were the national Iraqi elections, which took place on 31 January 2009. In the weeks building up to the elections, the Platoons scrambled furiously all over the AO to evaluate and assess the security of the 40 election sites located within our AO. We also had to partner very closely with ISF to determine what their security plan for the election was, and to assist in any way we could to ensure their success. This included advising them on security layouts, providing additional barrier materiel, and providing screens behind which to conduct female searches. All of the hard work we put in with our partners in the ISF paid off. There were no security incidents within our AO, and the people of the Khalis Qada were able to execute their democratic rights in peace and safety. This was the first democratic election run totally by the Iraqi government with Coalition Forces merely on the sidelines as observers.

It will not be until about 20 days later when we will learn who has been elected, and in the mean time we expect much anxiety on the part of the Iraqis as we all wait with baited breath to see who will be leading Iraq into the future.

Very Respectfully,
CPT M. Scott Jones
A CO, 1-24 IN
Commander

A CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Jones	matthew.s.jones@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Hansen	donald.hansen1@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Melody Hansen	melody.hansen@us.army.mil

Bravo Company Barbarians

Barbarian Friends and Family,

The men of Bravo Company have been working very hard this past month. Everyone knows that the Status of Forces Agreement was passed and that there would be a few changes coming up. The bottom line is that we would have to work more closely with our Iraqi Security Forces in order to be successful; and successful we have been!

1st Platoon is holding steady and has also conducted an outstanding post-SoFA operation resulting in a large cache and another detainee.

LT Joe Hansen from 2nd Platoon moved over to Headquarters Company and took over the Reconnaissance platoon. He was replaced by LT Barry Troy, originally from Charlie Company – commonly referred to as Chuckles Company. Since taking over the platoon, he has inherited our toughest problem set in the southern area of AO Barbarian. However, they have worked very well with the Iraqi Army down there and have made great gains in security and governance. They were also able to detain the first “bad guys” since the passing of the SoFA in the whole province.

LT TJ Rodebaugh from 3rd Platoon has moved over to Alpha Company and become their Executive Officer. This a great step forward for an outstanding officer, as he is now the second in command of a Rifle Company. SFC Grothause is currently taking over the platoon until we receive a fresh batch of second lieutenants from the rear. He is doing an outstanding job and is about to distribute nearly \$500,000.00 in grant money in his sector to jump start the economy by building and improving chicken coops.

SFC Delacruz has moved on as well. He will be taking over a 1st Sergeant position with the Military Transition Team located nearby. This is an excellent next step for an NCO that is definitely ready to be the senior Non-Commissioned Officer

in a company. He has been replaced by SFC Haney who is coming to us from the Battalion TOC. SFC Haney is an outstanding infantryman, who is Ranger qualified, much to the chagrin of the tankers he will be leading. His platoon has been taken out of their normal role as an anti-tank asset with the Mobile Gun System, and is being used as another Rifle Platoon – to which he is uniquely trained at leading. I expect great things from this platoon in the future.

CPT Brian Stoltz has also moved up in the world. I’m sad to see my XO go, but he is doing great work in Operations in the S3 section of Headquarters. His replacement is LT David Jarzab, formerly of Alpha Company. Dave is doing a great job and has taken over his new role as master of all things logistics related. Next month he will command the company as I take leave.

The men of Bravo Company have adapted to the new conditions very well and have made some significant gains. It is good to see that the young men and the leaders of the company remain flexible as the face of the war changes and can succeed in any operating environment. I believe they are actually doing better now than we did before!

Take care; write your soldier, we’ll see you soon.

-Barbarian 6
CPT Jeffrey Harmon
B Co, 1-24 IN
Commander



B CO Soldiers and Chaplain winning at soccer with Iraqis

B CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Harmon	jeffrey.harmon1@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Black	william.black1@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Kristin Harmon	theharmons02@hotmail.com

Charlie Company Centurions

Well I’m not sure where to start. January has come and gone in a blink of an eye. Like always we have been keeping ourselves very busy. As I’m sure you all saw on TV, Iraq just held their first elections since 2005. Many of you may remember seeing the iconic pictures of the purple fingers from the last election. What you didn’t see was the overwhelming US presence at polling stations and on the street maintaining security for those elections. The elections this year were completely different. The Iraqi Security forces had the lead in planning, resourcing and securing their nation’s elections. Your husbands provided support mostly during the planning phase. They worked with IPs on search techniques, how to identify fake IDs, what to do in the event of an attack and other possible occurrences during the elections. On Election Day we spent a lot of time in sector checking on our ISF partners making sure they had things under control and ensuring that there wasn’t anything “shady” going on with the voting. As you may have heard the elections went off across the country with no major attacks, a huge step for the security and stability of the country. Our next major step is to wait and see how the nation, and more specifically our AO, reacts to the results of the elections.

Shortly after the elections there was an even more significant event in Iraq. COP Zag

now has AFN. After 4 months we finally can watch TV in English. I now know why it costs so much to get a Satellite installed at your house. You are basically pointing a bowl at a 2 inch square that is a couple hundred miles away and moving. We got signal lock a few days before the Super Bowl and the TV has been on non-stop since. Due to the time difference the guys had to wake up early to watch the game live. The chow hall remained stocked with drinks and snacks for the game. We didn’t have a special meal like Thanksgiving or Christmas but I think most were happy just to be able to watch the game.

I wish I had more to talk about, but honestly this month has gone by in a flash. Your husbands continue to be ambassadors for a brighter future for this country. Their hard work is paying out in ways that we would have never thought of a year ago. Government officials, Essential Services and Security are all improving daily. Their hard work is garnering a future where we are no longer needed to maintain stability in the area.

CENTURION 6
CPT Jeremiah Hurley
C CO, 1-24 Infantry
Commander

C CO Points of Contact

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*Stryker Brigade
Bunco Night
30 January 2009*





The **Walk to Iraq and Back** program is still going strong, and 1-24 Infantry continues to represent themselves well among the other units involved. For the month of December, the total number of miles walked were 19,371. Our Battalion walked 5,362 of those miles! For the month of December, we were in second place for the number of miles walked per Battalion or Unit.

The following individuals have contributed:

Adahmarie Chum, Andrea Ryker, Ashley Frenette, Dawn Hurley, Dee VanAcker, Jeanette Mitchell, Joy Martin, Julie Green, Karen Lewis, Kirsten Reed, Lindsey Parish, Lisa VanAcker, Maren Best, Maria Bretches, Mary Cheney, Melanie Terrill, Melinda Quick, Michelle Porreca, Michelle Whittier, Misty Hack, Natalea Andersen, Peri Lund, Rebecca Woolwine, Sharyn Moore, Sherilin Andersen, Steven VanAcker, Tanya Dalton, Tawny DeBolt and Trisha Kaer

Congratulations to Maria Bretches of HHC for again having walked the farthest distance in December!



Military One Source offers a tremendous amount of resources for the Military Family in one convenient location. Some of the areas they can be of assistance include the following (and more!):

- **Deployment:** Dealing with Deployment, Returning from Deployment, Managing Stress, Military Benefits
- **Money:** Tax Filing Services, Financial Counseling, Military Saves, Budgeting, Home Buying or Renting, Pets, Moving, Consumer Issues
- **Parenting:** Healthy Children, Adoption, Childcare, Parenting Skills, Children's Mental Health
- **Education:** Pre-K, K-12, Benefits in the Army, Advocacy and Special Programs, Colleges and Universities
- **Career:** Education and Your Career, Non-Traditional Work Arrangements, Finding employment, Management Skills

This information is provided **free of charge** to you as a military family! We will continue to highlight an area of Military OneSource in each of our newsletters. If you have any kind of question and need immediate help, they are just a phone call away! Their phone line is staffed 24/7 by trained professionals who have a connection with the military, either as a family member or prior service. They have helped people with referrals for counseling, pet care, elder care, education questions including helping to find scholarships and grants, moving in the military, local childcare providers....if you have a question, they will research and answer it! Remember, the only bad question is the unasked question!

Visit the website at www.MilitaryOneSource.com or call 1-800-342-9647.

Battalion Easter Party

We will be planning the next Battalion party starting in February/March. Be sure to mark your calendar for April 11, 2009....we will be hosting an Easter get-together on that date. If you would like to be a part of the planning or volunteer to help on the 11th, please contact Sherilin Andersen at 750-2191.



***Tell Me A Story: Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot* read by MG Stephen R. Layfield**

Sunday, February 22, 2009, 1400-1600, Hangar 6, Fort Wainwright

Bring a blanket or rug for your children to sit on. Free Admission! Call to reserve your space.

Tell Me A Story: Making Connections and Finding Support through Literature is an initiative that was created to empower our military children by using literature in their own stories. *Tell Me A Story* is geared towards children ages 4-12. Each family will receive a copy of the book read by the guest speaker. Hands-on activities, snacks, and a fun learning experience will be provided. Reserve your space by February 18 by calling Child, Youth & School Services at (907) 353-9879 or (907) 361-YESS.



*BRAVO Company FRG
Prepares Valentine Goodies to
send to their Soldiers*





WHO DOESN'T LIKE SOMETHING FREE?

Military OneSource offers some great items that are free to you as a Military Family Member, and most include FREE shipping! How often do we get that when living in Alaska? So, please take a few moments to check out the following areas of www.MilitaryOneSource.com.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

You'll find the link to the Library on the Military OneSource homepage, on the left side in a navigation box. The Library page offers several choices. You can use the online resources, choose "Playaway Books" or Paperback Books. The books that are offered are sent out free of charge with no shipping cost to you.



"Playaway books are the newest format of audio book. A playaway books weighs two ounces and comes with earbuds and a battery. Playaways are approximately the size of a business card. When you receive your Playaway, all you have to do is press "play" to start listening to your book." When you are done, share the book with a friend. Most standard headphones will work with the player. Both Fiction and Non-Fiction titles are available. Check the website for current titles.



"Military OneSource has an ever-changing selection of popular fiction and non-fiction titles free to Military OneSource users. Order directly from our website." Check the website for available titles.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

You'll find the link to the Education on the Military OneSource homepage, on the left side in the navigation box. The Education page offers a variety of information, with "Scholarships and Other Opportunities" as the first set of links.



For those who have High School age children who are getting ready for the SAT/ACT testing, there is a link for 'Free SAT/ACT PowerPrep™ software for Military Families'.

MILITARY ONESOURCE TOOLKITS

On the right side of the homepage, you'll find a link for Military OneSource Toolkits in the "Search and Decision Tools" Navigation Box. This link opens up online Toolkits for applying to college, Parenting as a Team, Internet Safety, Surviving the First Three Months (new parent), New to the Army?, and Weight Loss toolkits. There is an abundance of information and downloadable forms that you can use to assist you in any of these areas. Take a few minutes, click around... you'll be happy you did!

Community Action Council Meeting – 04 FEB 2009

Department of Public Works – Mike Meeks, 361-7287

Snow Removal notices for parking lots areas are posted. Please remove all cars. If cars remain, removal crews will bypass the area due to safety concerns.

Staff Judge Advocate – MAJ Rowley, 353-6311

Tax Center is open. Appointments are available. Ms. Denise Bakewell, Tax Center, 353-7783.

To better assist in tax preparation, please be sure that you have all the necessary documents on hand when you go in for your appointment. Once the forms are filed electronically, you can expect your refund in approximately 7-14 days.

Director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation – Randy Blanchard, 353-7611

FMWR is now on Facebook! Become a fan by searching “FMWR Ft. Wainwright”. You will begin receiving updates to FMWR calendars, programs and facilities.

Child and Youth School Services – Heather Bauer, 353-3216

CYSS Employees are mandated to report all suspected child abuse and/or neglect.

Army Community Service – Denise Mitchell, 353-4243

18-20 February – Army Family Action Plan (AFAP) Conference and required training. If you are interested in serving as a delegate, contact ACS. Training will take place 17 February.

Parenting Classes are now available through ACS.

CHAPLAIN, CH Neetz, 353-9825

FOOD (Feeding Our Outstanding Dependents) Program, 15 Feb, 1700-1900, Southern Lights, 361-446.

Financial Peace University (Dave Ramsey), Northern Lights, Tuesday evenings 1800-2000, POC Klaus Hoehna, 687-2952

ASYMCA - Kristina Brophy, 353-5962

Teddy's Child Watch. If you have an appointment at Basset Army Community Hospital, the ASYMCA now offers TEDDY'S PART TIME CHILD WATCH. Please call Michelle at 361-5612 to reserve a slot for your child, ages 12 months to 6 years. Volunteers are needed to staff this FREE program.

Free movie passes to the Eielson Theater and the Blue Loon are available for February. Call 353-5962.

Father and Daughter Ball is rescheduled to 17 April. Contact Chris Mott at 353-5962 for information.

Thrift Shop is open. Stop by to check out the reorganization, to volunteer or to shop!

HOSPITAL/CLINIC

Utilize Tricare online to schedule and cancel appointments. Goal is to have 50% beneficiary registration.

February 3rd, there was a 16% No-Show rate for scheduled appointments. Please call to cancel if you cannot make your appointment, no matter how close to your appointment. This will open the appointment slot for others to utilize.

RCI & Housing Division - Cyndi Larson 361-4535

The conversion to privatize housing that was planned for 31 January 2009 has been postponed to 01 April 2009, however, their services have been contracted for the interim period. Please use the following numbers to contact them for your housing needs.

Residential Communities Initiative Office (RCI) - 361-4535

North Haven Communities - 1-866-370-9623

Housing Services Office - 353-1190

Echo Company — Rear Detachment

Winter Fun in Alaska

As many of you know, Echo Company has gone through a change of command. CPT Bolcar is now busy preparing to deploy to join the Battalion in Iraq, and I, CPT Bost, have taken over as the Echo Company Commander. 1SG Reich and I very much look forward to assisting any family in need and continuing the excellent work that was begun by CPT Bolcar. I know that I have a lot of work to do to keep up the great work that he has done here in preparing young men to go to the frontlines and assisting families on the home front. There will be some growing pains for a few weeks until I can fully engross myself in the unique challenges that come with being a Company Commander, but I invite you all to bring any issues that you have to our attention. I have taken a new office in BLDG 3214. I am now co-located with 1SG Reich in the former S4 office, room 117E.

Alaska presents unique challenges to any family, but Alaskan winters can be even more challenging. With the recent harsh weather that we have dealt with, and the harsh weather to come, I invite everyone to look over the USARAK Extreme Cold Weather Safety Advisory, found at the bottom of the Fort Wainwright Homepage, www.wainwright.army.mil. Above all else, we must stay safe. With the harsh Alaskan winters, and an ongoing deployment, it is not uncommon to feel down and out. If you need help, there is always someone around that can help. At the end of this message, there are numbers to a host of Fort Wainwright agencies that can help in these areas.

With that being said, there are also many opportunities to get outside and really enjoy the Alaskan winter. Outdoor Recreation, located just inside the main gate, has a number of items available for rent, including fishing and skiing equipment, and they also put on a lot of outdoor clinics. FMWR also has just started a Facebook page. Just search “FMWR Ft. Wainwright” and “become a fan.” This service will help to keep you up to date on any

events being put on by FMWR. The Yukon Quest starts in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, on February 14th, and should conclude around February 24th. Follow the action at www.yukonquest.com, and cheer on the mushers as they come down the Chena River through Fort Wainwright and into downtown Fairbanks for the exciting finish! Another big event in February is Ice Art 2009, a world ice art carving championship. It is located on Phillips Field Road off of Peger Road and runs from February 26th through March 25th. Get out and enjoy all that Fairbanks has to offer! To all families of the Arctic Legion, I am looking forward to working with you, and the wonderful challenges that commanding Rear Detachment will bring.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
CPT Joshua P. Bost
E Co., 1-24 IN
Commander
Strength and Honor!

- Numbers of Importance:
- Military Family Life Consultants – 388-2552
 - Army Community Services - 353-7298 or 347-4636 after hours
 - Social Work Services – 361-6284
 - Community Mental Health – 361-6059
 - Alcohol/Substance Abuse - 361-9872
 - Family Advocacy – 353-7315
 - Financial Readiness – 353-4369
 - Army Emergency Relief – 353-7453
 - American Red Cross – 353-7234 or 1-877-272-7337 after hours
 - Brigade Family Help Desk – 353-4180

Deployment Mailing Address

SOLDIER’S RANK AND NAME
COMPANY, 1-24 IN
FOB WARHORSE
APO AE 09336

You may give out this address to your family and friends. Please check www.usps.com for guidelines on what can and cannot be mailed. A customs form will be required for all packages. Please allow a minimum of 2 weeks for delivery.

E CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Bost	353-2453	joshua.bost@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	SFC Reich	353-2494	eric.reich@us.army.mil
Family Readiness Support Asst:	Sherilin Andersen	353-2424	sherilin.m.andersen@us.army.mil